

Annotated Anchors

English Language Arts/Literacy

Grade 3 – Islands Opinion Performance Task

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Anchor Response 1

Purpose and Organization • Sample 1-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

I would like to go to a cold Island. I could go sledding or make a snowman. I could learn how to ski. I don't know how to ski but I would like to learn. Or I could sit getting warm by the fire drinking hot chocolate. Maby I would see a bear. Or if the water is frozen I could go ice skating All in all cold places have lots of things to do.

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 1

This brief response **introduces** a clear statement of opinion about the writer's choice and **concludes** with a statement that generally matches that position. There are no real transitions other than the phrase "All in all." The response is too brief to determine a purposeful **progression of ideas**. Instead, there is a seemingly random list of reasons that do not reflect the content of the source materials; they are relevant only in that they reflect cold weather activities.

Anchor Response 2

Purpose and Organization • Sample 1-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

I would go to a hot island because it has good weather rain and warm you also have a ocean a palm tree forest in your back yard with wild animals. Cold islands have snow you have to hunt a lot its freezing cold. DANGERS animals live there be care full with weapons. Hot islands are ok the water has dangeris stuff also like eels, sharks, and angler fish. But you get a house.

So make your choice.

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 1

There is a clear position (“I would go to a hot island”) in this response. There is no distinct **introduction**, with the **opinion** combined with a list of reasons. There is a brief, one line **conclusion** (“So make your choice.”). There is no apparent **progression of ideas** and no appropriate **transitions** connecting the seemingly random reasons that do not always, as presented, support the opinion (“DANGERS animals live there be care full with weapons,” “the water has dangeris stuff...” and “Cold islands have snow you have to hunt a lot its freezing cold”).

Anchor Response 3

Purpose and Organization • Sample 2-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

My opinion is you should visit the cold islands because you can bring coats and if you run out of water at the tropical islands you will be really thirsty. Also at the cold islands you will be able to stay inside a house and it won't get hot. At the cold islands you won't have much of a food choice but you won't have to have many hurricanes.

Also you will be able to see a verity of birds at the cold islands. Their are More than 1,000 plants at the cold islands because of the moist soil. The cold islands are rocky and are covered in ice but are very beutiful. At the cold islands you will live in brightly colored houses that dot the hill side.

The people at the cold islands have fun in diffrent ways. The have fun by camping in tents, bird watching, fishing in the sea and hiking in th island mountains. You also might be able to skate on the ice.

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 2

Although there is no separate **introduction** in this response, there is a clear statement of opinion (“you should visit the cold islands.”). A **conclusion** is missing entirely. There are few **transitions** other than “Also.” The paragraphing is arbitrary, with the **progression of ideas** being mostly a list-like presentation of reasons to compare the cold and hot islands and support the position favoring “cold.”

Anchor Response 4

Purpose and Organization • Sample 2-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

If you went on a vacation would you go to a cold island or a hot island? I would go to a hot island because you can go swimming all day and it never gets cold. And in hot islands you can see amazing plants and animals. You may get lucky and could see a chimpanzee in your backyard! You could go exploring and see a beautiful waterfall. Some even have mountains, and hills, and others have a mix of high and low spots.

Try to find these unique animals: lizards, peacocks, snakes, and colorful fish. Do these amazing activities: go swimming, play in the sand, sail boats, hike trails, and go fishing. Each tropical island has different things to do. Make sure you have a great time in any tropical island.

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 2

There is no separate **introduction** or **conclusion** in this response, but the first paragraph does present a clear position and the final sentence offers closure. It is somewhat difficult to distinguish the **progression of ideas**, with animals and activities being covered in both paragraphs. There are few **transitions** (with the exception of “and”) to clarify relationships in the list of details included.

Anchor Response 5

Purpose and Organization • Sample 3-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

Islands

I think that warm islands are better to visit than cold islands. You want to know why? Well, I'll tell you why. I think that because they have a bigger variety of food, it's always warm, and it has better nature. Keep reading to know more about why I want to visit warm island not a cold one.

The first reason I want to visit an island that is a warm island is because the food they have. On cold islands the only food they have is seafood, because the people there can't plant crops on the cold, hard, frozen ground. But on warm islands there is warm grounds (for planting crops and building animal farms) and you can pick a banana or a coconut right off a tree. That's the first reason why I want to visit a warm island.

The second reason I want to visit a warm island is the heat. The island heat is a lot warmer than the cold islands. They have all that heat because they are near the equator. If your on a warm island you don't need as many clothes than when your on a cold island. That's the second reason I want to visit a warm island.

The third reason I want to visit a warm island is the nature those islands have. First of all there is vines to climb. Second of all when you climb one of the mountains there is a really great view. Last of all there is soft, sandy beaches. Well, that's the last reason I want to visit a warm island, and not a cold one.

So, now do you want to visit a warm or cold island?

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 3

There is a clear statement of opinion (“warm islands”) and the rhetorical question (“You want to know why?”) is used to set up the road map for the essay. The last sentence in the introduction provides a transition that sounds artificial (“keep reading to find out...”). Although the **introduction** is perfunctory, it is adequate. The **conclusion**, however, is inadequate, posing a rhetorical question that is ineffective to conclude an essay, providing only a limited sense of completeness. The **transitions** between paragraphs are predictable and repetitive (“The first/second/third reason I want to visit”). And the final sentence in each body paragraph echoes the first sentence (“That’s the first/second/last reason I want to visit”), rendering these transitions more distracting than appropriate. Internal transitions in paragraphs 2 and 3 are subtle (“On cold islands....But on warm islands...” and “If....than [then]...”), but in paragraph 4, they once again become needlessly repetitive (“first of all...second of all...last of all...”). The **progression of ideas** does maintain the focus (and roadmap) described in the introduction. Although the redundant and artificial transitions diminish the effectiveness of this response, it has enough qualities of a score point 3 to move into that scoring category.

Anchor Response 6

Purpose and Organization • Sample 3-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

Today my class is reading a book about islands. There are two types of islands, cold islands, and hot islands. In my opinion I think if your planning a vacation to go to a nice, tropical island, you should go to a hot island.

My first reason you should go to a hot island is because of the wheater. A hot island gets alot of sun, and it has a long rainy season, so it makes it a little bit warm when the sun starts to come out. When I want to go swimming in a pool on a island I want it to be warm. Also if you do not like the cold wheater go to a hot island. I got this information on paragraph two.

Another reason i think a hot island is better then a cold island is about the water. On paragraph three it says Some tropical islands, like in Florida Keys, are very flat. Some have mountins and hills, and others have huge waterfalls and coral reefs. All of them have lagoons, or shallow pools shelterd from ocean by sandbars. That is something you would want to go see.

The third reasons you would really want to go to one of these islnds is all about the creatures you would see there. Because the islands have so many water all around them, there is alot of sea life. Sharks, eels, crabs, many kinds of colorful fish living in the waters. You might find lizards, peacoks, snakes, and maybe even a chimpanzee in your backyard! How cool would it be to see a real life chmip, and peacock upclose! This I read from paragraph five.

My last reason you should go to a hot island is about all the tropical stuff growing over there! You can go outside and go pick coconuts, bannanas, and of course lots of diffrent ther fruits, and all the beautiful trees, vines, bushes and, small flowering plants.

Again these are the reasons you should pack up all your things leave your house. (But don't sell your house.) Go to a hot tropical island and build your new fabulous house. All because of the wheater, water, cool creatures, and all the cool stuff growing over there! Listen to me and take my advice. (P.S. just reading my opion writing would make you do all this stuff.)

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 3

The **introduction** to this response begins by summarizing the task (although it says “reading a book” instead of “making a book”) followed by a statement providing context (“there are two types”) and a clear choice or **opinion**. Although the opinion is somewhat muddled (“If your planning...to go a nice, tropical island...go to a hot island”—as if there were any other kind of tropical island), this does not interfere with meaning. The mildly repetitive **conclusion** is adequate, summarizing the “reasons” but also adding some personal spin (“Listen to me and take my advice”). The final advice to move to a tropical place (“But don’t sell your house.”) is somewhat distracting and off-task, but it doesn’t alter the focus of the writing. Overall, the **progression of ideas** is quite clear and is clarified with formulaic **transitions** between paragraphs: “My first reason,” “Another reason,” etc. There are few internal transitions and most of the details provided (those that aren’t copied from the sources) are listed.

Anchor Response 7

Purpose and Organization • Sample 4-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

Tropical Islands are the Best

Would you rather go to a warm, sunny tropical island or an icy cold one? If you ask me, the tropical island would be my first pick for a vacation. What is a tropical island? It is a warm island with a rainy season, a hurricane season, beaches, warm sun all year round, and, the best part, lots of fun! Just imagine sunbathing in a chair on the beach, sipping from a tall glass of ice-cold lemonade. Banana and coconut trees would be around, so you could just pick some delicious fruit whenever you liked (source 2). In my opinion, tropical islands are better than cold ones.

I believe that tropical islands are better than cold islands. Why? When you go to the zoo, isn't it interesting to see all the animals there? Well, when you go to a tropical island, it's like living in a zoo. Sea life such as sharks, crabs, eels, and gorgeous fish live in the waters there (source 2). On the island, there could be lizards, peacocks, chimpanzees, and snakes found in your backyard(source 2)! Since islands are surrounded by water, you can go swim in the ocean (source 2). You wouldn't want to do this on a cold island because that the water would probably be cold like the island.

Have you ever played "detective" or something like it? Tropical islands are the perfect place to do this. For example, there are many different types of interesting plants on both tropical and cold islands, but it's warmer on tropical islands, so plants might thrive a bit more there, so you could try to make some observations about the plants and animals there (source 1 and 2). Tropical islands are best!

In my opinion, tropical islands are best because that they're warm, warm all year round. But that doesn't mean it doesn't get wet. In fact, tropical islands have a rather long rainy season(source 2)! You might not like this, but everybody likes splashing around in puddles and getting messy! (Even adults) But there is also a hurricane season. Not to worry. The people who live on these islands build homes that won't break in a hurricane (source 2). Have you ever seen a waterfall? Aren't they beautiful? Well, many tropical islands have huge waterfalls, coral reefs, lagoons or shallow pools(source 2). Now do tropical islands seem comforting and warm?

I think that a tropical island would be a nice place to live. There are many fun activities to do, such as swimming, playing in the sand, sailing boats and hiking trails (source 2). These are fun because it is good to get exercise, and even better to have fun while doing it. You can look at wildlife, either on the land or in the sea(source 2). Beautiful places are everywhere. Obviously, you should either visit or move to a tropical island.

As you can see, you should at least try to visit a tropical island. It is always warm there (source 2), and quite relaxing. Now that you might want to go to a tropical island, why don't you visit one?

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 4

This response has an engaging **introduction** that effectively defines “tropical,” invites readers to imagine themselves in the setting, and states a clear position on the question of hot or cold. The essay progresses from tropical animals, to nature, to activities. That **progression of ideas** is sustained with two exceptions: Arguably, the middle of paragraph 2—about swimming—should have been in paragraph 5—about activities, and sentences 4 and 5 in paragraph 5 (“You can look at wildlife... Beautiful places everywhere.”) should have been in paragraph 2. The **conclusion** is not as effective as the introduction although it does offer clear closure. Some **transitions** seemed forced, especially between body paragraphs. For example, the sentences “tropical islands are better,” “Tropical islands are the best!” “Now do tropical islands seem comforting and warm?” and “Obviously, you should either visit or move to a tropical island” appear to be tacked on; they are mildly distracting and more characteristic of a 3 paper than a 4. Internal transitions are appropriate and varied (“For example,” “But,” “In fact,” “Well,” “Now...”). Overall, despite some weaknesses, this essay meets most criteria of the score point 4 scoring category.

Anchor Response 8

Purpose and Organization • Sample 4-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

Have you ever gone on a trip to the tropical islands? They are much better than the cold islands like Greenland or Faroe. I think the tropical islands are a much better place to go on vacation because tropical islands are a good way to escape from the cold, they have interesting plants, their houses are really safe, they have unique wild life, and they are very entertaining.

To begin with, I think tropical islands are a good way to escape from the cold because tropical islands do not get that cold. They also get a lot of sun. In source #2 it says tropical islands are near the equator which means the ocean water is warm. Lastly the air in the tropical islands is moist and hot.

Second, the tropical islands have many interesting plants that are fun to look at when you visit. In source #2 it said they have a assortment of vines, bushes, and small flowering plants. They also have thick, green, beautiful rain forests that you can walk through and be amazed! Interestingly enough there are 2,6000 kinds of palm trees that you can't find any where else! If you visit a tropical island you can probably just pick a banana or a coconut right of its tree! You cant do that any where else? Can you!

Third the houses are really safe. If you visit during hurricane weather its okay. It said in source#2 that tropical island houses are built for high winds The tropical islands have a long rainy season and if the houses can hold out high winds they can hold out a rainstorm no problem.

Fourth, tropical islands also have unique wild life. In source #2 it said the islands have huge water falls and beautiful coral reefs. Did you know that all tropical islands have lagoons or shallow pools that are sheltered from the ocean by sandbars. In the tropical island's ocean there are many sea creatures like sharks, eel, crab, and many colorful fish just to name a few. There are also terrifyingly big spiders! Amazingly enough lizards, snakes, peacocks, or a chimpanzee could end up in your back yard! What an experience that would be!

Lastly, in my opinion tropical islands are the most entertaining place in the world. You will be so occupied there will be no time to be bored! In source #2 it said there is so many things to do like swimming, playing in the sand, sailing, hiking, and best of all swimming in the tropical ocean! You will find many things to do and have a good time. Each island has its own special tradition.

This is why I think that the tropical islands are the best place to visit because it is a good vacation to escape the cold, look at the islands interesting plants, it is really safe, see the unique wild life, and it is very entertaining.

That is why I think tropical islands are a better place to go on vacation than cold islands.

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 4

The **introduction** to this response begins by providing a context via rhetorical question, along with a clear opinion about a comparison between tropical and cold islands. This is followed by a list of the supports to be used. The **conclusion** basically repeats this list of topics and is not effective. The obvious **progression of ideas** is sustained, along with predictable **transitions** between paragraphs (“To begin with,” “Second,” “Third,” “Lastly,” “That is why I...”). Within paragraphs, there are some subtle transitions (“Amazingly enough,” “Interestingly enough”) as well as more typical connectors such as “also.” While there are characteristics of both the 3 and the 4 scoring criteria, the response has enough strengths to move into the top scoring category.

Anchor Response 1

Evidence and Elaboration • Sample 1-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

I would like to go to a cold Island. I could go sledding or make a snowman. I could learn how to ski. I don't know how to ski but I would like to learn. Or I could sit getting warm by the fire drinking hot chocolate. Maby I would see a bear. Or if the water is frozen I could go ice skating All in all cold places have lots of things to do.

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 1

There are nearly no specific references to text details and no **attributions** to source materials in this response. The few **details** that are included refer to cold weather (snowman, skiing, ice skating) but do not reflect a close reading of the sources. References to sledding and bears, only vaguely related to the text details about dog-sledding and polar bears, are relevant enough to make this response scoreable even if only at the lowest score point category.

Anchor Response 2

Evidence and Elaboration • Sample 1-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

I would go to a hot island becuse it has good weather rain and warm you also have a ocean a palm tree forest in your back yard with wild animals. Cold islands have snow you half to hunt a lot its freezeing cold. DANGERIS animals live there be care full with weapons. Hot islands are ok the water has dangeris stuf also like eels, sharks, and angler fish. But you get a house.

So make your choise.

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 1

There are a few **unattributed** details from **source materials** in this response. The attempted **elaboration** is limited to interpretations that don't necessarily support the stated opinion ("dangeris" animals and "stuf" in the water) or are irrelevant as presented ("weapons" and "But you get a house"). The **language** is general and there is no evidence of **style** appropriate for the task.

Anchor Response 3

Evidence and Elaboration • Sample 2-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

My opinion is you should visit the cold islands because you can bring coats and if you run out of water at the tropical islands you will be really thirsty. Also at the cold islands you will be able to stay inside a house and it won't get hot. At the cold islands you won't have much of a food choice but you won't have to have many hurricanes.

Also you will be able to see a verity of birds at the cold islands. Their are More than 1,000 plants at the cold islands because of the moist soil. The cold islands are rocky and are covered in ice but are very beutiful. At the cold islands you will live in brightly colored houses that dot the hill side.

The people at the cold islands have fun in diffrent ways. The have fun by camping in tents, bird watching, fishing in the sea and hiking in th island mountains. You also might be able to skate on the ice.

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 2

This response does integrate (and in a simplistic way, synthesize) details from both **sources** (e.g., “you won’t have much of a food choice but you won’t have to have many hurricanes”). Those sources are not **attributed**. There is also some copying (“live in brightly colored houses that dot the hill side”) and close paraphrasing (“rocky...covered in ice, but they are very pretty” versus “rocky and are covered in ice but are very beautiful”). **Elaboration** is limited to a few hypothetical connections (“You might be able to skate on the ice,” “you will be able to stay inside a house and it won’t get hot,” “you can bring coats,” and the somewhat specious connection: “if you run out of water...”). Overall, the language use is general; the style is consistent.

Anchor Response 4

Evidence and Elaboration • Sample 2-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

If you went on a vacation would you go to a cold island or a hot island? I would go to a hot island because you can go swimming all day and it never gets cold. And in hot islands you can see amazing plants and animals. You may get lucky and could see a chimpanzee in your backyard! You could go exploring and see a beautiful waterfall. Some even have mountains, and hills, and others have a mix of high and low spots.

Try to find these unique animals: lizards, peacocks, snakes, and colorful fish. Do these amazing activities: go swimming, play in the sand, sail boats, hike trails, and go fishing. Each tropical island has different things to do. Make sure you have a great time in any tropical island.

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 2

There are appropriate details used (but not attributed) primarily from **source 2** in this response. There is, however, almost no **elaboration** with only a few brief extensions going beyond the text (e.g., “You may get lucky” and “go exploring”). **Language** use is appropriate with words such as “unique” and “amazing” enhancing the response. There is also a strong sense of **style** (e.g., with imperative sentences such as “Try to find these unique animals” and “Do these amazing activities”). Despite the distinctive style, there is insufficient elaboration to earn more than a 2.

Anchor Response 5

Evidence and Elaboration • Sample 3-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

Islands

I think that warm islands are better to visit than cold islands. You want to know why? Well, I'll tell you why. I think that because they have a bigger variety of food, it's always warm, and it has better nature. Keep reading to know more about why I want to visit warm island not a cold one.

The first reason I want to visit an island that is a warm island is because the food they have. On cold islands the only food they have is seafood, because the people there can't plant crops on the cold, hard, frozen ground. But on warm islands there is warm grounds (for planting crops and building animal farms) and you can pick a banana or a coconut right off a tree. That's the first reason why I want to visit a warm island.

The second reason I want to visit a warm island is the heat. The island heat is a lot warmer than the cold islands. They have all that heat because they are near the equator. If your on a warm island you don't need as many clothes than when your on a cold island. That's the second reason I want to visit a warm island.

The third reason I want to visit a warm island is the nature those islands have. First of all there is vines to climb. Second of all when you climb one of the mountains there is a really great view. Last of all there is soft, sandy beaches. Well, that's the last reason I want to visit a warm island, and not a cold one.

So, now do you want to visit a warm or cold island?

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 3

As would be expected, most of the **details** in this response come from source 2, about warm islands. However, paragraph 2 also references source 1, explaining what the writer deems as inferior food offerings on cold islands compared with what's available on warm islands. There are no specific **attributions** to the **source materials** (a distinctive weakness for this score point, but representing only one bullet point on the rubric). There is some **elaboration** although it is uneven. Paragraph 2 has no elaboration, although the writer has made some implied value judgments about preferable food. Paragraphs 3 & 4 show some elaboration via inferences: "you don't need as many clothes," (although it's not clear why that's an advantage), and "vines to climb" (again, explaining that climbing vines would be fun would help). The **language** use is general and often self-evident ("The island heat is a lot warmer than the cold islands"), and the repetitive transitions are distracting. There is evidence of an emerging sense of (if not skill with) **style**: the rhetorical questions used to frame the essay attempt to engage the reader with a conversational style. Otherwise, the style is overall perfunctory but consistent. When considering the overall rubric descriptors, this essay edges into the score point 3 category.

Anchor Response 6

Evidence and Elaboration • Sample 3-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

Today my class is reading a book about islands. There are two types of islands, cold islands, and hot islands. In my opinion I think if your planning a vacation to go to a nice, tropical island, you should go to a hot island.

My first reason you should go to a hot island is because of the wheater. A hot island gets alot of sun, and it has a long rainy season, so it makes it a little bit warm when the sun starts to come out. When I want to go swimming in a pool on a island I want it to be warm. Also if you do not like the cold wheater go to a hot island. I got this information on paragraph two.

Another reason i think a hot island is better then a cold island is about the water. On paragraph three it says Some tropical islands, like in Florida Keys, are very flat. Some have mountins and hills, and others have huge waterfalls and coral reefs. All of them have lagoons, or shallow pools shelterd from ocean by sandbars. That is something you would want to go see.

The third reasons you would really want to go to one of these islnds is all about the creatures you would see there. Because the islands have so many water all around them, there is alot of sea life. Sharks, eels, crabs, many kinds of colorful fish living in the waters. You might find lizards, peacoks, snakes, and maybe even a chimpanzee in your backyard! How cool would it be to see a real life chmip, and peacock upclose! This I read from paragraph five.

My last reason you should go to a hot island is about all the tropical stuff growing over there! You can go outside and go pick coconuts, bannanas, and of course lots of diffrent ther fruits, and all the beautiful trees, vines, bushes and, small flowering plants.

Again these are the reasons you should pack up all your things leave your house. (But don't sell your house.) Go to a hot tropical island and build your new fabulous house. All because of the wheater, water, cool creatures, and all the cool stuff growing over there! Listen to me and take my advice. (P.S. just reading my opion writing would make you do all this stuff.)

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 3

In this response, there are sufficient **details** selected from source #2; however, source #1 is not referenced other than to clarify the task – hot versus cold weather islands). The **attributions** to source materials are somewhat awkward (“I got this information on...”), but they are there. Many source details are copied, especially in paragraphs 3 and 4, which are word-for-word copies in some places. Failing to use quotation marks to indicate what material is quoted is a weakness. However, there is an adequate amount of the student’s own writing in other paragraphs to evaluate for **elaboration**. Specifically, paragraphs 3 and 4 end with commentary : “That is something you would want to go see” and “How cool would it be to see....” Paragraph 2 and the conclusion also develop the writer’s ideas (via personal connection: “When I want to go swimming...I want it to be warm” and advice: “Listen to me and take my advice”). Some parts of the response lack development. Paragraph 5, for example, lists the “tropical stuff” but doesn’t explain why these are special (presumably, coconuts and other fruits are tasty, but these qualities are implied rather than developed). The **language** used is mostly general (“stuff”), but the **style** is appropriate and the writer has attempted to utilize voice to persuade the audience (e.g., “Pack up all your things”). Although there are some weaknesses in this response, overall it has enough qualities of the score point 3 category to earn that score.

Anchor Response 7

Evidence and Elaboration • Sample 4-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

Tropical Islands are the Best

Would you rather go to a warm, sunny tropical island or an icy cold one? If you ask me, the tropical island would be my first pick for a vacation. What is a tropical island? It is a warm island with a rainy season, a hurricane season, beaches, warm sun all year round, and, the best part, lots of fun! Just imagine sunbathing in a chair on the beach, sipping from a tall glass of ice-cold lemonade. Banana and coconut trees would be around, so you could just pick some delicious fruit whenever you liked (source 2). In my opinion, tropical islands are better than cold ones.

I believe that tropical islands are better than cold islands. Why? When you go to the zoo, isn't it interesting to see all the animals there? Well, when you go to a tropical island, it's like living in a zoo. Sea life such as sharks, crabs, eels, and gorgeous fish live in the waters there (source 2). On the island, there could be lizards, peacocks, chimpanzees, and snakes found in your backyard(source 2)! Since islands are surrounded by water, you can go swim in the ocean (source 2). You wouldn't want to do this on a cold island because that the water would probably be cold like the island.

Have you ever played "detective" or something like it? Tropical islands are the perfect place to do this. For example, there are many different types of interesting plants on both tropical and cold islands, but it's warmer on tropical islands, so plants might thrive a bit more there, so you could try to make some observations about the plants and animals there (source 1 and 2). Tropical islands are best!

In my opinion, tropical islands are best because that they're warm, warm all year round. But that doesn't mean it doesn't get wet. In fact, tropical islands have a rather long rainy season(source 2)! You might not like this, but everybody likes splashing around in puddles and getting messy! (Even adults) But there is also a hurricane season. Not to worry. The people who live on these islands build homes that won't break in a hurricane (source 2). Have you ever seen a waterfall? Aren't they beautiful? Well, many tropical islands have huge waterfalls, coral reefs, lagoons or shallow pools(source 2). Now do tropical islands seem comforting and warm?

I think that a tropical island would be a nice place to live. There are many fun activities to do, such as swimming, playing in the sand, sailing boats and hiking trails (source 2). These are fun because it is good to get exercise, and even better to have fun while doing it. You can look at wildlife, either on the land or in the sea(source 2). Beautiful places are everywhere. Obviously, you should either visit or move to a tropical island.

As you can see, you should at least try to visit a tropical island. It is always warm there (source 2), and quite relaxing. Now that you might want to go to a tropical island, why don't you visit one?

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 4

This essay does **integrate details** from both sources primarily by drawing relevant comparisons (“You wouldn’t want to do this on a cold island because...,” “interesting plants on both...but it’s warmer...so plants might thrive...”). The references to **source materials** are **attributed**. There are a variety of effective **elaborative strategies** employed throughout. For example, paragraph 2 begins with an analogy about a zoo to help readers connect to the variety of wildlife in the tropics. Paragraph 4 turns negatives into positives, addressing the downsides of the rainy season first (lots of rain and hurricanes) and then contrasting by pointing out the upsides of the season (playing in puddles and homes built to withstand hurricanes). The response also includes commentary and comparisons such as “You wouldn’t want to do this on a cold island because that the water would probably be cold...” The **language** used is mostly effective with words (e.g., “thrive” and “relaxing”) and phrases (e.g., “sipping from a tall glass of ice-cold lemonade”) although there are occasional lapses (some repetitions, e.g., “tropical islands are better/best...”). The **style** is mature for a third grader with the introduction serving as a good example of mixing effective rhetorical questions/answers, inviting readers to “imagine” themselves in this environment. Wording such as “Well...” show further evidence of an intentional conversational style.

Anchor Response 8

Evidence and Elaboration • Sample 4-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

Have you ever gone on a trip to the tropical islands? They are much better than the cold islands like Greenland or Faroe. I think the tropical islands are a much better place to go on vacation because tropical islands are a good way to escape from the cold, they have interesting plants, their houses are really safe, they have unique wild life, and they are very entertaining.

To begin with, I think tropical islands are a good way to escape from the cold because tropical islands do not get that cold. They also get a lot of sun. In source #2 it says tropical islands are near the equator which means the ocean water is warm. Lastly the air in the tropical islands is moist and hot.

Second, the tropical islands have many interesting plants that are fun to look at when you visit. In source #2 it said they have a assortment of vines, bushes, and small flowering plants. They also have thick, green, beautiful rain forests that you can walk through and be amazed! Interestingly enough there are 2,6000 kinds of palm trees that you can't find any where else! If you visit a tropical island you can probably just pick a banana or a coconut right of its tree! You cant do that any where else? Can you!

Third the houses are really safe. If you visit during hurricane weather its okay. It said in source#2 that tropical island houses are built for high winds The tropical islands have a long rainy season and if the houses can hold out high winds they can hold out a rainstorm no problem.

Fourth, tropical islands also have unique wild life. In source #2 it said the islands have huge water falls and beautiful coral reefs. Did you know that all tropical islands have lagoons or shallow pools that are sheltered from the ocean by sandbars. In the tropical island's ocean there are many sea creatures like sharks, eel, crab, and many colorful fish just to name a few. There are also terrifyingly big spiders! Amazingly enough lizards, snakes, peacocks, or a chimpanzee could end up in your back yard! What an experience that would be!

Lastly, in my opinion tropical islands are the most entertaining place in the world. You will be so occupied there will be no time to be bored! In source #2 it said there is so many things to do like swimming, playing in the sand, sailing, hiking, and best of all swimming in the tropical ocean! You will find many things to do and have a good time. Each island has its own special tradition.

This is why I think that the tropical islands are the best place to visit because it is a good vacation to escape the cold, look at the islands interesting plants, it is really safe, see the unique wild life, and it is very entertaining.

That is why I think tropical islands are a better place to go on vacation than cold islands.

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 4

This response contains convincing details that are **attributed** to source #2. Overall, the response demonstrates a variety of **elaboration strategies**. For example, there is elaboration via commentary (“You can’t do that anywhere else” “What an experience that would be”). However, some text details are directly copied (but not quoted) along with an additional brief comment (e.g., “Did you know that [copied detail about lagoons]?” “[copied detail about sea creatures] just to name a few”). Much of the development comes through inferences. For example, there are some mature inferences (e.g., “You will be so occupied there will be no time to be bored”) along with a few somewhat obvious inferences (e.g., “it [source 2] says tropical islands are near the equator which means the ocean water is warm”), and some inferences that aren’t necessarily text-supported (e.g., “palm trees that you can’t find anywhere else!”). Despite some general **language** (especially transitions), there are many effective words (e.g., “escape,” “occupied,” and “terrifyingly”) along with phrases (e.g., “Interestingly enough” and “entertaining place”) that successfully engage the reader. These same phrases, along with some well-chosen (if not well-punctuated) comments and question/answers (“You can’t do that....can you!”) establish a conversational **style** that is effective for the audience.

Anchor Response 1

Conventions • Sample 0-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

I would go to a hot island becuse it has good weather rain and warm you also have a ocean a palm tree forest in your back yard with wild animals. Cold islands have snow you half to hunt a lot its freezeing cold. DANGERIS animals live there be care full with weapons. Hot islands are ok the water has dangeris stuf also like eels, sharks, and angler fish. But you get a house.

So make your choise.

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 0

This brief and confusing response does not demonstrate control of grade 3 conventions:

It is difficult to separate how this response demonstrates competence with **Sentence Structure** and **Punctuation** skills. Although grade 3 writers are not accountable for formal **sentence** errors such as run-ons and fragments, this response shows limited understanding of the need to separate ideas into **punctuated** sentences (“I would go to a hot island becuse it has good weather rain and warm you also have a ocean a palm tree forest in your back yard with wild animals”). This lack of understanding also causes confusion.

Grammar Usage: There are no identifiable errors with grammar usage.

Capitalization: There are no errors with capital letters (presumably “DANGERIS” is an attempt at style).

Spelling errors include “stuf,” “freezeing,” “becuse,” “choise,” “dangeris.”

Anchor Response 2

Conventions • Sample 0-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

It would be better to visit the hot island because I'd be be cold island thermea and coldness and head aces. but if you visit the hot island you would need water so thats it id pick the hot island only if and my there was water so the winner is hot island yea and thats my story and my opinion bye

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 0

This very brief response is too confusing to provide any evidence of conventions control.

Sentence Structure: Because there are so many missing or inappropriate words, and only one period, it is difficult to assess where sentences begin or end (e.g., “so thats it id pick the hot island only if and my there was water so the winner is hot island yea and...bye”).

Grammar Usage: Again, missing and/or inappropriate phrases make it difficult to assess control of grammar usage.

Spelling: Errors with spelling cause confusion (“head aces,” “becouse,” “thermea”).

Capitalization: There are missing capital letters for the personal pronoun “I” and at the beginning of sentences.

Punctuation: There are missing apostrophes with contractions (“that[']s,” “[i']d”) and the response has only one period.

Anchor Response 3

Conventions • Sample 1-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

My opinion is to to a hot /warm island because you can crops and swim on a happy day. You can also play in the back yard on a hot summer day. But on a cold island all you do is real go fishing. You can not go swimming on a cold island My opinion for a cold island is not to go there because it is cold there and all you realy do is go fishing there. Another reason i do not like a cold island is that you can not go swimming there but if you do go swimming there it will hurt an the water will be as cold as ice!!Brrrrrrr Hot islands i sugest you go to if you go on a vacation. If you chose a cold island thats ok but prepare to get cold for all your vaction!!!!

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 1

Given the repetition of ideas in the writing (e.g., five of eight sentences repeat the same phrases), this response demonstrates limited control of grade 3 conventions:

Sentence Structure: This response has no grade 3-appropriate errors in sentence structure. However, there are places where missing words (e.g., “My opinion is to [go] to a hot...”) and odd sentence order (“Hot islands i sugest you go to...”) cause confusion.

Capitalization: The personal pronoun “I” lacks capital letters.

Grammar Usage: Overall, there are few errors with grammar usage although awkward or imprecise use of prepositions (“My opinion for a cold island...”) cause confusion.

Punctuation: There are errors with missing end marks (“on a cold island My opinion...”) and the apostrophe is missing from the contraction “that[']s.”

Spelling: There are relatively frequent errors with spelling (“can not” for “cannot,” “swiming,” “realy,” “sugest,” “vaction”).

Anchor Response 4

Conventions • Sample 1-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

I think it would be better to live on a warm island because there is food to eat and find easier to find food than on cold islands. you wont be cold you would be wam and not freezing. there is helthy food to eat like fruits. If you were in a cold island it would be hard to find any food because it is like winter there cant be any food growing or the plants would die. Another reason to lve in a warm island is because you caan play all day and you wont need to worry about your coat your hats or gloves. you also dont need to have as many cloths because there is only one season witch would be Summer or spring. One thing I would like would be all the animals you get to see all the birds and fish and alot more.

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 1

Overall, this brief and repetitive response demonstrates only limited control of grade 3 conventions:

Sentence Structure: Although there are run-on sentences, these are not considered grade 3 skills.

Grammar Usage: There are a few grade 3-appropriate errors with grammar usage (e.g., there is an error with what should be a single, not a plural noun—“hats”). There is an error with adverbs (the comparative eas[i]er should either be “more easily,” or the sentence should be [it is] easier to find...). There is also an awkward or imprecise use of prepositions (“reason to lve in a warm island...”). Note also that grade 3 students are not accountable for frequently confused words (“witch” instead of which, “cloths” for clothes).

Punctuation: There are missing apostrophes with contractions (wont, cant), and there are missing commas in a simple list (“your coat[,] your hats[,] or gloves”).

Capitalization: There is an unnecessary initial capital letter in the word “Summer.”

Spelling: There are some spelling errors (“wam,” “helthy,” “caan,” “lve,” “alot”).

Anchor Response 5

Conventions • Sample 2-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

If you went on a vacation would you go to a cold island or a hot island? I would go to a hot island because you can go swimming all day and it never gets cold. And in hot islands you can see amazing plants and animals. You may get lucky and could see a chimpanzee in your backyard! You could go exploring and see a beautiful waterfall. Some even have mountains, and hills, and others have a mix of high and low spots.

Try to find these unique animals: lizards, peacocks, snakes, and colorful fish. Do these amazing activities: go swimming, play in the sand, sail boats, hike trails, and go fishing. Each tropical island has different things to do. Make sure you have a great time in any tropical island.

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 2

Despite the relatively large number of spelling errors, this brief response demonstrates adequate control of most conventions:

There are no grade 3-relevant errors with **Sentence Structure, Capitalization, or Punctuation.**

Grammar Usage: There is an error with subject/verb agreement with a close subject and verb (“...tropical island have...”). In the last sentence of the first paragraph, “hill” should be plural.

Spelling: There are frequent spelling errors (e.g., “beautiful,” “swimming,” “boats”). “Vacation” and “chimpanzee” (which are in the source materials) as well as “unique” are probably not grade 3 words.

Anchor Response 6

Conventions • Sample 2-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

Islands

I think that warm islands are better to visit than cold islands. You want to know why? Well, I'll tell you why. I think that because they have a bigger variety of food, it's always warm, and it has better nature. Keep reading to know more about why I want to visit warm island not a cold one.

The first reason I want to visit an island that is a warm island is because the food they have. On cold islands the only food they have is seafood, because the people there can't plant crops on the cold, hard, frozen ground. But on warm islands there is warm grounds (for planting crops and building animal farms) and you can pick a banana or a coconut right off a tree. That's the first reason why I want to visit a warm island.

The second reason I want to visit a warm island is the heat. The island heat is a lot warmer than the cold islands. They have all that heat because they are near the equator. If your on a warm island you don't need as many clothes than when your on a cold island. That's the second reason I want to visit a warm island.

The third reason I want to visit a warm island is the nature those islands have. First of all there is vines to climb. Second of all when you climb one of the mountains there is a really great view. Last of all there is soft, sandy beaches. Well, that's the last reason I want to visit a warm island, and not a cold one.

So, now do you want to visit a warm or cold island?

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 2

This response demonstrates overall adequate control of grade 3 conventions:

Sentence Structure: there are no grade 3-appropriate errors with sentences (run-on sentences are not considered errors until grade 4).

Grammar Usage: Responsibility for subject/verb agreement begins in grade 3 as a “language progression skill,” meaning competency with the skills is dependent on the complexity of sentence compare with the grade level. Arguably, “there is soft, sandy beaches” has enough distance between the subject and verb to be above grade 3 level; however, the subject and verb in “there is vines” are close enough that the lack of agreement should count as an error. There are no other grade 3-appropriate errors in this category (3rd graders are not accountable for frequently confused words such as “your” for you’re).

Punctuation: There are no grade 3-appropriate errors (commas in compound sentences and following introductory elements are not grade 3 errors).

There are no errors with **Capitalization** or **Spelling**.

Anchor Response 7

Conventions • Sample 2-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

Today my class is reading a book about islands. There are two types of islands, cold islands, and hot islands. In my opinion I think if your planning a vacation to go to a nice, tropical island, you should go to a hot island.

My first reason you should go to a hot island is because of the wheater. A hot island gets alot of sun, and it has a long rainy season, so it makes it a little bit warm when the sun starts to come out. When I want to go swimming in a pool on a island I want it to be warm. Also if you do not like the cold wheater go to a hot island. I got this information on paragraph two.

Another reason i think a hot island is better then a cold island is about the water. On paragraph three it says Some tropical islands, like in Florida Keys, are very flat. Some have mountins and hills, and others have huge waterfalls and coral reefs. All of them have lagoons, or shallow pools shelterd from ocean by sandbars. That is something you would want to go see.

The third reasons you would really want to go to one of these islnds is all about the creatures you would see there. Because the islands have so many water all around them, there is alot of sea life. Sharks, eels, crabs, many kinds of colorful fish living in the waters. You might find lizards, peacoks, snakes, and maybe even a chimpanzee in your backyard! How cool would it be to see a real life chmip, and peacock upclose! This I read from paragraph five.

My last reason you should go to a hot island is about all the tropical stuff growing over there! You can go outside and go pick coconuts, bannanas, and of course lots of diffrent ther fruits, and all the beautiful trees, vines, bushes and, small flowering plants.

Again these are the reasons you should pack up all your things leave your house. (But don't sell your house.) Go to a hot tropical island and build your new fabulous house. All because of the wheater, water, cool creatures, and all the cool stuff growing over there! Listen to me and take my advice. (P.S. just reading my opion writing would make you do all this stuff.)

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 2

Other than the many spelling errors, there are relatively few errors in this response, demonstrating adequate control of grade 3 conventions.

Sentence Structure: Although there are some awkward constructions (e.g., the last sentence in paragraph 5), there are no grade 3-appropriate sentence errors.

Grammar Usage: The only grade 3-relevant error in grammar usage is the use of “a” instead of “an” to precede “island” (paragraph 2). Note: errors with frequently confused words (“your” instead of you’re and “then” instead of than) are grade 4 errors.

Punctuation: There are no grade 3-relevant errors in punctuation.

There is a missing **capital** letter for the pronoun I in paragraph 3. Note: the seemingly unnecessary capital on “Some” in paragraph 3 is likely there because it should have been the beginning of quoted material.

Spelling: There are numerous spelling errors of grade 3-appropriate words (e.g., “wheater,” “alot,” “mountins,” “opion/opioin,” “diffrent,” “islnds,” “bannanas,” “chmps”).

Anchor Response 8

Conventions • Sample 2-Point

STUDENT RESPONSE

Tropical Islands are the Best

Would you rather go to a warm, sunny tropical island or an icy cold one? If you ask me, the tropical island would be my first pick for a vacation. What is a tropical island? It is a warm island with a rainy season, a hurricane season, beaches, warm sun all year round, and, the best part, lots of fun! Just imagine sunbathing in a chair on the beach, sipping from a tall glass of ice-cold lemonade. Banana and coconut trees would be around, so you could just pick some delicious fruit whenever you liked (source 2). In my opinion, tropical islands are better than cold ones.

I believe that tropical islands are better than cold islands. Why? When you go to the zoo, isn't it interesting to see all the animals there? Well, when you go to a tropical island, it's like living in a zoo. Sea life such as sharks, crabs, eels, and gorgeous fish live in the waters there (source 2). On the island, there could be lizards, peacocks, chimpanzees, and snakes found in your backyard(source 2)! Since islands are surrounded by water, you can go swim in the ocean (source 2). You wouldn't want to do this on a cold island because that the water would probably be cold like the island.

Have you ever played "detective" or something like it? Tropical islands are the perfect place to do this. For example, there are many different types of interesting plants on both tropical and cold islands, but it's warmer on tropical islands, so plants might thrive a bit more there, so you could try to make some observations about the plants and animals there (source 1 and 2). Tropical islands are best!

In my opinion, tropical islands are best because that they're warm, warm all year round. But that doesn't mean it doesn't get wet. In fact, tropical islands have a rather long rainy season(source 2)! You might not like this, but everybody likes splashing around in puddles and getting messy! (Even adults) But there is also a hurricane season. Not to worry. The people who live on these islands build homes that won't break in a hurricane (source 2). Have you ever seen a waterfall? Aren't they beautiful? Well, many tropical islands have huge waterfalls, coral reefs, lagoons or shallow pools(source 2). Now do tropical islands seem comforting and warm?

I think that a tropical island would be a nice place to live. There are many fun activities to do, such as swimming, playing in the sand, sailing boats and hiking trails (source 2). These are fun because it is good to get exercise, and even better to have fun while doing it. You can look at wildlife, either on the land or in the sea(source 2). Beautiful places are everywhere. Obviously, you should either visit or move to a tropical island.

As you can see, you should at least try to visit a tropical island. It is always warm there (source 2), and quite relaxing. Now that you might want to go to a tropical island, why don't you visit one?

ANNOTATION

SCORE POINT 2

This complex response demonstrates a strong control of grade 3 conventions.

Sentence Structure: There are no sentence structure errors. Note that phrases such as “Even adults” are deemed stylistic, not errors.

Punctuation: The few errors in punctuation do not reflect grade 3 requirements.

There are no errors in **Spelling, Capitalization, or Grammar Usage.**